

Kerby home not so lucky with fire the second time

Illinois Valley firefighters encountered a bittersweet situation at a structure blaze at 196 W. Sixth St. in Kerby on Friday afternoon, Oct. 22.

The single-wide mobile home -- that incurred an estimated \$60,000 worth of smoke and fire damage, according to Chief Harry Rich -- is the same one that firefighters saved from a raging wild-fire on Sept. 1.

And it was only a few yards from the former site of a large travel trailer that was consumed by flames during the Sept. 1 fire, despite concentrated efforts

to save it.

In addition, the structure damaged on Friday was occupied by the son-in-law of Lois Matthews, whose dwelling was lost last month.

I.V. Fire District (IVFD) said that the last name of the man who occupied the single-wide is VanTrease, but attempts to obtain his first name were fruitless. Indications were that he was accommodated for the night at Junction Inn in Cave Junction by the American Red Cross.

Deputy Chief Jeff Gavlik said that the cause of the fire appears to have



Illinois Valley Fire District firefighters battled an electrical fire in a home in Kerby.

been a defective electrical outlet near a couch. Investigation was conducted by volunteer Capt. Steve Corwin, of O’Brien.

“It seems ironic,” said Gavlik, “that we saved the building from a wildland

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Selma resident Robert Heatherly was pinned in his vehicle after rolling two or possibly three times. (Photo by Dale and Elaine Sandberg/IVFD photographers.)

Selma man injured in Caves Hwy. wreck

Illinois Valley firefighters engaged in heavy extrication to rescue a Selma resident whose car rolled at least twice on Caves Hwy.

Robert Heatherly, 35, of 201 Forest Creek Road, was pinned inside his 1983 Dodge Challenger near 4485 Caves Hwy. His head and one arm were pinned in the wreckage, said Oregon State Police.

The crash was reported at approximately 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23. It appeared that the vehicle rolled twice and possibly three times, said I.V. Fire District (IVFD) Battalion Chief Ken Gavlik.

Initial reports from civilians who stopped at the wreck were that it was a two-vehicle crash with a possible fatality. However, only one car was at the scene, and Heatherly was still alive.

Firefighters used extrication tools to “pop” the driver’s-side door; and peel back the roof, said Gavlik.

The roadway was closed for about an hour on either side of the accident while OSP and Josephine County Sheriff’s Office investigated.

Two National Park Service employees from Oregon Caves National Monument stopped to assist the victim before emergency personnel arrived. They were identified by monument Superintendent Craig Ackerman as Tom Stewart and Ann Schlichting.

Siewart, a leading caves guide, was inside the car, helping to stop the loss of blood. Schlichting, a ranger who supervises the guides, was outside the car, also helping.

Once emergency personnel arrived, Siewart climbed out the rear window of the car with their assistance. They then left, they said, as they didn’t want to be in the way of emergency responders.

American Medical Response (AMR) took Heatherly to Three Rivers Community Hospital in Grants Pass. He initially was reported in serious condition, but it later was upgraded to good.

OSP said that a 16-ounce beer can was found on the passenger side floorboards, and that a legal blood draw occurred at the hospital to determine blood-alcohol content. It was .17, said OSP. The legal limit is .08.

A report was to be sent to the district attorney’s office on a possible charge of driving under the influence of intoxicants, OSP reported.

At about the same time as the Caves Hwy. crash, other I.V. firefighters and another AMR ambulance responded out Happy Camp Road because of a reported upside-down car.

A woman who had been driving the car apparently lost control about 1.5 miles from Page Mt. Snow Park on the Takilma side of Happy Camp Road and went over an embankment, said IVFD Division Chief Joe Feldkamp.

He reported the roadway condition as “slushy.”

She was transported by AMR for evaluation. Other information was unavailable in time for this issue.

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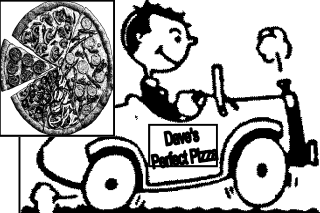
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